

24 February 1987

THE NEW YORK TIMES on 23 February falsely alleges that CIA's Acting Director Robert Gates "played a direct role" in a decision in 1985 to circulate to the White House a National Intelligence Officer's memorandum that favored arms dealings with Iran. If the TIMES had asked for Agency comment on the anonymous source's efforts to portray Gates as an active advocate of initiating arms sales to Iran, the TIMES would have been told:

--Mr. Gates did not review the NIO's paper in draft or at any other point prior to its dissemination. He received an information copy at the same time the addressees (DCI Casey and DDCI McMahon), 11 other Agency officials, and 5 non-Agency officials in the NSC and State Department received theirs.

--The paper was produced solely at the NIO's initiative. The normal production and distribution process for this kind of "think piece" was followed.

--Mr. Gates did not communicate with the NIO drafter at any time or in any form--oral or written--about the memorandum.

--Mr. Casey personally may have sent copies of the memorandum to Secretaries Shultz and Weinberger and perhaps other senior USG officials--he often did so in cases of this type--but we cannot confirm that.